



Borough of Dunstable

Report

ON THE

Health of Dunstable

FOR THE YEARS

1939, 1940 and 1941

BY

H. A. A. PARGETER, M.A., M.B., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health.

Together with the Report of

H. STEW,

Acting Senior Sanitary Inspector.

Waterlow & Sons Limited, London and Dunstable.

REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for 1939, 1940 and 1941.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
MUNICIPAL OFFICES,
DUNSTABLE.

11th January, 1943.

*To His Worship the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the
Borough of Dunstable.*

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in submitting my Annual Reports for the years 1939, 1940 and 1941. These reports are combined, and, although not quite so detailed as usual, contain all the essential statistics and figures which are necessary for maintaining the Borough's records.

During the summer of 1942, while preparing this report, the great popular topic of discussion was post-war reconstruction and I think it is only right that I should emphasise in this letter that the primary necessity when the war is over will be the provision of many new houses to abate overcrowding.

I have the honour to be, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

H. A. A. PARGETER,

Medical Officer of Health.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

(a) *Medical Officer of Health* (part-time).

H. A. A. Pargeter, M.A., M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.

(b) *Senior Sanitary Inspector.*

A. Bishop, 1939, 1940. Seconded to Full Time A.R.P.
from 1st July, 1941.

(c) *Additional Sanitary Inspector.*

D. W. Bottom, 1939. Terminated 28th December,
1940.

- (d) *Temporary Assistant Sanitary Inspector.*
G. W. Dhenin. Appointed 31st May, 1939. Terminated 6th January, 1941.
- (e) *Additional Sanitary Inspector.*
H. Stew. Appointed 1st February, 1941. Acting Senior Sanitary Inspector from 1st July, 1941.
- (f) *Additional Sanitary Inspector.*
L. G. Howard. Appointed 1st April, 1941.
- (g) *Shorthand-Typist-Clerk.*
I. E. Ornsby. Appointed 22nd December, 1941.
- (h) *Pupil Clerk.*
D. H. Laing. 1939, 1940. Joined H.M. Forces 11th December, 1941.

SECTION A—

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

1. Vital Statistics and General Observations.

Area of Borough, 2,028 acres.

	1939.	1940.	1941.
Population as estimated by Registrar-General	14,720	15,730	18,040
Number of inhabited houses, according to the Rate Books	4,445	4,448	4,448
Rateable Value as at 31st March	£71,955	£78,235	£77,553
Sum produced by a penny rate, taken at 31st March... ..	£272	£295	£310
Number of new houses erected...	36	3	Nil

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEARS 1939, 1940 AND 1941.

The following tables give extracts from the Vital Statistics of the years 1939, 1940 and 1941, as furnished by the Registrar-General.

1939.	Total	M.	F.	} Birth rate per 1,000 of population, 16·4.
Live Births ...	231	116	115	
Legitimate	221	112	109	
Illegitimate	10	4	6	

1939— <i>contd.</i>	Total	M.	F.	
Still Births ...	4	4	0	} Rate per 1,000 (live and still) births, 17·0.
Legitimate	4	4	0	
Illegitimate	0	0	0	
Deaths ...	155	84	71	{ Death Rate per 1,000 of population, 10·5.

There were no deaths from diseases or accidents of pregnancy and childbirth.

Deaths of Infants under one year of age :—

Total ...	6	Rate per 1,000 live births ...	25·0
Legitimate	5	Rate per 1,000 legitimate live births	22·6
Illegitimate	1	Rate per 1,000 illegitimate live births	100·0
Deaths from Measles (all ages) ...	...	...	0
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) ...	...	...	1
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) ...	...	...	0
Deaths from Cancer (all ages) ...	...	...	23

1940.	Total	M.	F.	
Live Births ...	244	126	118	} Birth rate per 1,000 of population, 15·5.
Legitimate	232	121	111	
Illegitimate	12	5	7	
Still Births ...	4	2	2	} Rate per 1,000 (live and still) births, 19·2.
Legitimate	4	2	2	
Illegitimate	0	0	0	
Deaths ...	220	105	115	{ Death rate per 1,000 of population, 14·0.

There was one death from maternal causes, other than sepsis.

Deaths of Infants under one year of age :—

Total ...	21	Rate per 1,000 live births ...	86·1
Legitimate	19	Rate per 1,000 legitimate live births	81·9
Illegitimate	2	Rate per 1,000 illegitimate live births	166·7
Deaths from Measles (all ages) ...	...	...	0
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) ...	...	...	0
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) ...	...	...	0
Deaths from Cancer (all ages) ...	...	...	31

1941.	Total	M.	F.	
Live Births ...	274	153	121	} Birth rate per 1,000 of population, 15·2.
Legitimate	267	148	119	
Illegitimate	7	5	2	
Still Births ...	13	9	4	} Rate per 1,000 (live and still) births, 45·3.
Legitimate	13	9	4	
Illegitimate	0	0	0	

1941— <i>contd.</i>	Total	M.	F.	
Deaths	... 181	81	100	{ Death rate per 1,000 of population, 10·0.

There were no deaths from diseases or accidents of pregnancy and childbirth.

Deaths of Infants under one year of age :—

Total	... 15	Rate per 1,000 live births	... 54·7
Legitimate	13	Rate per 1,000 legitimate live births	48·7
Illegitimate	2	Rate per 1,000 illegitimate live births	285·7
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	...	0
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	2
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	...	...	1
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	...	...	24

2. Population.

The population figures as supplied by the Registrar-General since 1933, when the Borough was extended to its present area, are as follows :—

1933 (mid-year)	...	...	...	10,293
1934	„	...	...	10,520
1935	„	...	...	11,330
1936	„	...	...	12,800
1937	„	...	...	13,450
1938	„	...	...	13,760
1939	„	...	...	14,720
1940	„	...	...	15,730
1941	„	...	...	18,040

The natural increase in the population or difference between the birth and death rate are as follows :—

1939	...	...	...	5·9
1940	...	...	...	1·6
1941	...	...	...	5·2

It is important to compare the population figures supplied by the Registrar-General with locally-estimated figures as determined by the ration books issued from the Food Office :—

In October, 1939, 16,817 ration books were issued.

In October, 1940, 20,131 ration books were estimated to be in local use.

In October, 1941, 18,789 ration books were estimated to be in local use.

It must be remembered that these local figures do not represent a permanently resident population, and the Registrar-General, in his figures, attempts to estimate the average resident and not the total population in the mid-year.

However, there is no doubt that many of the "rates per thousand" given in this report are very misleading.

3 & 4. Birth and Death Rates.

Year.	Population.		Births.	Birth Rate.	Deaths.	Crude Death Rate.	Adjusted Death Rate.
	Reg. Gen's Estimate.	Local Estimate.					
		(Oct.)					
1936	12,800	—	199	16	141	11·0	10·3
1937	13,450	—	219	16	151	11·2	10·5
1938	13,760	—	243	18	126	9·2	8·6
1939	14,720	16,817	231	17	155	10·5	9·9
1940	15,730	20,131	244	16	220	13·9	15·0
1941	18,040	18,789	274	15	181	10·0	—

The adjusted Death Rate is obtained by multiplying the Crude Death Rate by the areal Comparability Factor supplied by the Registrar-General. This factor is used in order to make allowance for the sex and age distribution of the population. The issue of this was suspended in 1941. The Factors for 1939 and 1940 were 0·94 and 1·08 respectively.

The death rates for England and Wales as a whole during the three years were as follows :—

1939	...	...	...	...	...	...	12·1
1940	...	...	...	...	...	...	14·3
1941	...	...	...	...	...	...	12·9

There seems to be no doubt that the Death Rate for 1940 is grossly inaccurate, and the following seems to me to be the explanation.

After October 1st, 1939, the form of practice of transference of deaths to the area of usual residence was abandoned, and deaths of persons temporarily residing away from home on account of the War were assigned to the area of temporary residence. In addition, according to local estimates the population of Dunstable had increased to a figure much higher than that supplied by the Registrar-General. Also a large percentage of the new "war residents" in the town were persons who were infirm or advanced in years.

The following table shows the chief causes of death in the three years :—

<i>Cause of Death.</i>	1939.	1940.	1941.
Heart Disease	38	56	44
Cancer	23	31	24
Intra-Cranial Vascular Lesions	12	19	13
Bronchitis	4	6	14
Pneumonia	4	15	6
Arterio-sclerosis and other circulatory diseases	6	1	1
Tuberculosis (pulmonary)	4	6	7
Influenza	2	9	5
TOTALS	93	143	114

5. Causes of Death—Statistics.

The table immediately following, supplied by the Registrar-General, gives the causes of deaths of residents in the Borough during the years 1939, 1940 and 1941 :—

<i>Causes of Death.</i>	1939.		1940.		1941.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
All Causes	84	71	105	115	81	100
1. Typhoid Fever, etc.	—	—	—	—	—	—
2. Measles	—	—	—	—	—	—
3. Scarlet Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—
4. Whooping Cough	—	1	—	—	1	1
5. Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—
6. Influenza	1	1	4	5	2	3
7. Cerebro-spinal Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—
8. Encephalitis Lethargica	—	—	—	—	—	—
9. Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	4	—	4	2	6	1
10. Other Tuberculous Diseases ...	1	—	2	3	2	4
11. Syphilis	—	—	1	—	—	—
12. General Paralysis of Insane ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
13. Cancer	11	12	14	17	10	14
14. Diabetes	—	2	—	—	—	1
15. Cerebral Hæmorrhage	9	3	8	11	3	10
16. Heart Disease	17	21	28	28	18	26
17. Aneurysm	—	—	—	—	—	—
18. Other Circulatory Diseases ...	4	2	—	1	—	1
19. Bronchitis	1	3	2	4	8	6
20. Pneumonia	2	2	8	7	3	3
21. Other Respiratory Diseases ...	—	—	4	4	1	—
22. Peptic Ulcer	1	—	1	—	1	1
23. Diarrhœa (under 2 years) ...	—	—	—	—	1	—
24. Appendicitis	—	—	3	1	—	—
25. Cirrhosis of Liver	—	—	—	—	—	—
26. Other Diseases of Liver	—	1	—	—	—	—
27. Other Digestive Diseases	1	1	1	4	1	4
28. Nephritis	1	4	1	3	2	1
29. Puerperal Sepsis	—	—	—	—	—	—
30. Other puerperal causes	—	—	—	1	—	—
31. Congenital Causes, etc.	3	2	5	9	6	4
32. Senility	5	3	—	—	—	—
33. Suicide	3	—	—	—	—	—
34. Other Violence	11	5	7	3	6	1
35. All other causes	9	8	12	12	10	19

6. Infant Mortality.

The following tables show Infantile Mortality from stated causes in weeks and months under one year of age.

	<i>Weeks.</i>				<i>Total under one month.</i>	<i>Months.</i>				<i>Total under one year.</i>
	0-	1-	2-	3-		1-	3-	6-	9-	
1939.										
Prematurity and debility from birth	3	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	3
Sclerema neonatorum	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Icterus neonatorum...	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Broncho-pneumonia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Totals ...	5	—	—	—	5	—	—	1	—	6
1940.										
Prematurity and debility from birth	9	—	—	—	9	—	—	—	—	9
Broncho-pneumonia	1	—	—	1	2	1	1	1	1	6
Congenital Deformity	1	—	—	2	3	—	—	—	—	3
Middle Ear Disease...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Accidental (Suffocation) ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Birth Injury...	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Totals ...	12	—	—	3	15	1	2	2	1	21
1941.										
Prematurity and debility from birth	6	2	—	—	8	—	—	—	—	8
Broncho-pneumonia and bronchitis ...	1	—	—	—	1	2	—	—	—	3
Birth Injuries ...	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Congenital Defects ...	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Whooping Cough ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Gastro-enteritis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Totals ...	9	2	—	—	11	2	1	1	—	15

INFANT MORTALITY.

	<i>Total Live Births.</i>	<i>Infantile Mortality Rate—Dunstable</i>	<i>Infantile Mortality Rate—England and Wales.</i>
1932 ...	133	60	65
1933 ...	119	59	64
1934 ...	168	66	59
1935 ...	173	46	57
1936 ...	199	55	59
1937 ...	219	32	58
1938 ...	243	46	53
1939 ...	231	25	50
1940 ...	244	86	55
1941 ...	274	55	59

7. Maternal Mortality.

There was one maternal death in 1940 and none in 1939 and 1941.

SECTION F—

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

1. Infectious Diseases, other than Tuberculosis.

(a) *General Statistics.*—The following table shows the number of cases of infectious diseases notified during the years 1939, 1940 and 1941, together with the number admitted to hospital, and the deaths from these diseases :—

DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS) NOTIFIED DURING 1939, 1940 AND 1941.

Diseases.	Total Cases Notified.			Cases Admitted to Hospital.			Total Deaths Registered.		
	1939.	1940.	1941.	1939.	1940.	1941.	1939.	1940.	1941.
Diphtheria	8	9	9	8	9	9	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	18	15	38	17	15	38	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia	1	1	3	—	—	—	4	15	6
Erysipelas	1	5	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	—	139	213	Not recorded			—	—	—
Whooping Cough	2	6	141	Not recorded			1	—	2
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cerebro-spinal Fever... ..	—	2	—	—	2	—	—	—	—

The following tables show the number of cases of infectious diseases of which information was received otherwise than by notification :—

Year.	Disease.	Information received from Head Teachers.	Total Deaths Registered.
1939	Chicken Pox	24	—
	Mumps	11	—
	Scabies	8	—
	Whooping Cough... ..	6	—
	German Measles	11	—
	Ringworm	2	—
	Diphtheria	2	—
	Impetigo	2	—
1940	Mumps	64	—
	Chicken Pox	50	—
	Impetigo	1	—
	Scabies	3	—
	Ringworm	1	—
	German Measles	30	—
	Scarlet Fever	2	—
	Measles	99	—
1941	Chicken Pox	13	—
	Measles	7	—
	Scarlet Fever	7	—
	Whooping Cough... ..	52	—
	Scabies	3	—

Form E.—Seventeen forms were received from the Head Teachers of the Local Elementary Schools in 1939, twenty-five forms in 1940, and thirteen forms in 1941.

The following tables give an analysis of the cases of Infectious Diseases notified, according to age :—

<i>Disease.</i>	<i>Un- der 1 year.</i>	<i>1 to 2</i>	<i>2 to 3</i>	<i>3 to 4</i>	<i>4 to 5</i>	<i>5 to 10</i>	<i>10 to 15</i>	<i>15 to 20</i>	<i>20 to 35</i>	<i>35 to 45</i>	<i>45 to 65</i>	<i>Over 65</i>	<i>Total.</i>
1939.													
Diphtheria ...	—	—	—	—	1	3	—	1	3	—	—	—	8
Scarlet Fever	—	—	1	—	2	10	3	2	—	—	—	—	18
Erysipelas ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Pneumonia...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
1940.													
Diphtheria ...	—	—	—	1	—	4	1	—	3	—	—	—	9
Scarlet Fever	—	2	2	3	1	3	3	1	—	—	—	—	15
Erysipelas ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	1	1	5
Pneumonia...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Cerebro-spinal Fever ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	2
1941.													
Diphtheria ...	—	—	—	—	1	4	1	1	2	—	—	—	9
Scarlet Fever	1	1	1	1	2	16	10	2	3	1	—	—	38
Erysipelas ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia...	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	1	—	3

There also occurred :—

in 1939—1 case of Puerperal Fever and 1 case of Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

in 1940—2 cases of Puerperal Fever and 1 case of Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

in 1941—1 case of Puerperal Fever.

(*b*) *Smallpox.*—No cases of smallpox were notified during the year.

(*c*) *Scarlet Fever.*

<i>Year.</i>	<i>No. of Cases.</i>	<i>Case-rate per 1,000.</i>	<i>Case-rate for England and Wales.</i>
1939... ..	18	1.2	1.89
1940... ..	15	.95	1.63
1941... ..	38	2.1	1.47

The following table shows the incidence for the last ten years.

1932	...	7	1937	...	10
1933	...	9	1938	...	32
1934	...	19	1939	...	18
1935	...	24	1940	...	15
1936	...	7	1941	...	38

(d) *Diphtheria*.—The following table shows the number of cases of diphtheria which have occurred during the last ten years.

1932	...	2	1937	...	23
1933	...	3	1938	...	8
1934	...	31	1939	...	8
1935	...	85	1940	...	9
1936	...	36	1941	...	9

During 1939, 1940 and 1941, the following carriers of the disease were discovered :—

1939	...	...	...	...	...	3
1940	...	...	...	...	...	2
1941	...	...	...	...	...	2

There were no deaths from the disease in any of the three years.

*Case-rate in
England and Wales.*

The case-rate for 1939 was 0.54 per 1,000	1.14
„ „ 1940 „ 0.57 „ 1,000	1.16
„ „ 1941 „ 0.49 „ 1,000	1.25

Diphtheria Immunization.—Clinics for this purpose were maintained throughout 1939, 1940 and 1941.

In 1939 26 children of school age received treatment.

In 1940 88

In 1941 1,063

(e) *Enteric Fever*.—No cases of this disease were notified during 1939, 1940 and 1941.

(f) *Pneumonia*.—The following table shows the number of cases of Pneumonia notified during 1939, 1940 and 1941, and the number of deaths registered as due to pneumonia in all forms :—

Year.				Cases notified.	Deaths registered as due to Pneumonia.
1939	...	...	...	1	4
1940	...	...	...	1	15
1941	...	...	...	3	6

(g) *Measles*.—This disease was epidemic in the latter half of 1940 and the first few months of 1941.

(h) *Whooping Cough*.—There was an epidemic of this disease in the late summer of 1941.

(i) *Influenza*.—Deaths from this disease were as follows :—

1939	...	...	...	...	...	2
1940	...	...	...	...	...	9
1941	...	...	...	...	...	5

(j) *Puerperal Fever and Puerperal Pyrexia*.—The following cases were notified :—

1939	...	...	...	...	...	1
1940	...	...	...	...	...	2
1941	...	...	...	...	...	1

(k) *Ophthalmia Neonatorum*.—One case was notified in 1939 and one case in 1940, but none in 1941.

(l) *Other Infectious diseases*.—There were no cases of Cerebro-spinal Fever in 1939 and 1941, but 2 cases occurred in 1940, which were removed to hospital.

One case of Erysipelas was notified in 1939, which was removed to hospital, and there were five cases notified in 1940.

(m) *Vaccinations*.—No vaccinations were carried out under the Public Health (Prevention of Smallpox) Regulations.

2. Cancer.

The following table shows the prevalence of Cancer deaths during the last 10 years.

Year	Males	Females	Total	Rate per 1,000	England & Wales Rate per 1,000
1932	9	8	17	1.81	1.58
1933	10	11	21	2.09	1.59
1934	10	14	24	2.28	1.56
1935	12	7	19	1.68	1.59
1936	13	8	21	1.09	1.63
1937	9	16	25	1.89	1.63
1938	6	8	14	1.02	1.66
1939	11	12	23	1.56	—
1940	14	17	31	1.97	—
1941	10	14	24	1.33	—

AGE DISTRIBUTION OF CANCER DEATHS.

Age Periods.	40—	50—	60—	70—80	Totals.
Males ...					
Females ...					

3. Tuberculosis.

New cases and mortality during 1939, 1940 and 1941.

Particulars of new cases of tuberculosis and of deaths from the disease during 1939, 1940 and 1941.

Year.	Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
		Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.	
		M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
1939	0- ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	1- ...	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—
	5- ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	10- ...	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
	15- ...	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	20- ...	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
	25- ...	1	4	1	—	3	—	—	—
	35- ...	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
	45- ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	55- ...	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
	65 & up	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals		6	8	3	—	4	—	1	—
1940	0- ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	1- ...	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
	5- ...	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	10- ...	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
	15- ...	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
	20- ...	1	2	—	—	1	1	1	—
	25- ...	1	1	—	1	1	1	—	1
	35- ...	1	2	—	1	2	—	—	1
	45- ...	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—
	55- ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	65 & up	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals		6	6	—	5	4	2	2	3
1941	0- ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	1- ...	—	—	3	1	1	—	1	1
	5- ...	—	2	1	—	—	—	1	—
	10- ...	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	1
	15- ...	1	1	—	1	—	—	—	1
	20- ...	3	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
	25- ...	3	1	—	—	3	—	—	—
	35- ...	1	—	—	—	1	1	—	—
	45- ...	6	2	—	1	1	—	—	—
	55- ...	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
	65 & up	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Totals		14	9	4	4	6	1	2	4

The following table shows the number of cases on the Tuberculosis Register at the end of each of the years 1939, 1940 and 1941 :—

<i>Year.</i>				<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
1939 ...	Pulmonary ...	...	...	52	44	96
	Non-pulmonary ...	...	...	17	17	34
	Totals ...	...	...	69	61	130
1940 ...	Pulmonary ...	...	...	52	41	93
	Non-pulmonary ...	...	...	17	20	37
	Totals ...	...	...	69	61	130
1941 ...	Pulmonary ...	...	...	64	48	112
	Non-pulmonary ...	...	...	22	21	43
	Totals ...	...	...	86	69	155

During 1939 the total number of deaths registered as due to Tuberculosis was 5, 4 of which were pulmonary and 1 non-pulmonary. The corresponding figures for 1938 were 11 and 3.

During 1940, the total number of deaths from Tuberculosis was 11, 6 of which were pulmonary and 5 non-pulmonary. During 1941 the deaths from tuberculosis numbered 13, 7 of which were pulmonary and 6 non-pulmonary.

In 1939 the death rate was 0·27 per 1,000 for pulmonary and 0·06 for non-pulmonary.

In 1940 the death rate was 0·38 per 1,000 for pulmonary and 0·32 for non-pulmonary.

In 1941 the death rate was 0·38 per 1,000 for pulmonary and 0·33 for non-pulmonary.

BOROUGH OF DUNSTABLE.

REPORT

OF THE

ACTING SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR

FOR THE

YEARS 1939, 1940 and 1941.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
MUNICIPAL OFFICES,
DUNSTABLE.

January, 1943.

*To His Worship the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the
BOROUGH OF DUNSTABLE.*

MR. MAYOR, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit for your consideration a combined Report for the years 1939, 1940 and 1941.

As the Council are aware, it was not until 1st July, 1941, that I took over the duties of Acting Senior Sanitary Inspector, Inspector of Meat and other Foods, and Inspector under the Housing and Factories Acts. I am therefore indebted to Mr. Bishop, who was seconded to full-time A.R.P. Duties under the County Council on 1st July, 1941, for the provision of much of the information relative to the period before my appointment.

The report deals with the action taken in relation to the various duties carried out by this Department and it will be seen that Wartime conditions have made a considerable change in the routine duties of a Public Health Department, although all normal services have been maintained as far as possible.

I would like to record my thanks to the Public Health Committee and Corporation for the compliment they paid me in

appointing me to the responsibility of Chief Official, and trust that their faith in my capabilities has been and will continue to be upheld. My thanks are also due to the Medical Officer of Health, Mr. Bishop, and the Town Clerk, for their help and guidance, and to my Staff, whether still with the Department or in His Majesty's Forces, for the help and assistance readily given.

I beg to remain,

Yours obediently,

H. STEW,

Acting Senior Sanitary Inspector.

SECTION C—

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

1. (i) Water Supply.

As mentioned in previous reports the Water Supply of the Borough is controlled and undertaken by the Dunstable Gas & Water Company, and is obtained from deep wells bored in the chalk within the Borough.

No definite shortage was experienced during the three years, and no restrictions were placed on the use of water, although the Public were asked to exercise economy during the summer periods. I am indebted to the Manager of the Company for submitting to me the results of the examination of the 35 separate samples of water taken in Dunstable during 1939, 1940, and 1941. The samples were taken from widely different parts of the Town and show a consistently good standard of purity throughout. A précis of the results is appended herewith :—

Results of the Examination of Water Samples, 1939.

Sample 1/39. Date : 13-1-39.

Source : Isolation Hospital, London Road.

Result : “ This sample is reasonably clear and bright and of normal colour, but has slight deposit consisting of mineral debris, mostly zinc, doubtless derived from galvanised iron pipes or tanks. The water is neutral in reaction, very hard in character although not to an excessive degree, contains no excess of salinity, and is of a high standard of organic and bacterial purity. It is therefore considered pure and wholesome water suitable for drinking and domestic purposes, but the absence of deposit would be preferable.”

The mineral deposits were no doubt the result of the water having stood in galvanised pipes and would have cleared itself if allowed to run for a while before the sample was taken.

Sample 2/39. Date : 27-1-39.

Source : Kitchen tap, Showrooms, High Street North, Dunstable.

Result : " This sample is clear and bright and of a high degree of bacterial purity in which respects it is considered pure and wholesome water, suitable for drinking and domestic purposes."

Sample 5/39. Date : 9-3-39.

Source : 19, Hadrian Avenue, Dunstable.

Result : Same as sample 2/39.

Sample 6/39. Date : 22-3-39.

Source : Isolation Hospital, London Road.

Result : " This sample is of a high degree of bacterial purity in which respects it is considered pure and wholesome water, suitable for drinking and domestic purposes." The sample contained a slight deposit consisting of Iron Oxides. This shows a definite improvement on the sample obtained from the same source in January (1/39).

Sample 7/39. Date : 3-4-39.

Source : Boiler House tap, Gas Works, Dunstable.

Result : Same as sample 2/39.

Sample 9/39. Date : 3-5-39.

Source : Main tap, 5, Regent Street, Dunstable.

Result : Same as sample 2/39, plus the note that—

" The result of the examination of this sample are very satisfactory."

Sample 11/39. Date : 1-6-39.

Source : 13, Hadrian Avenue, Dunstable.

Result : Same as sample 9/39.

Sample 12/39. Date : 20-6-39.

Source : Isolation Hospital, London Road.

Result : Same as sample 2/39. *Note :* This sample was obtained from the same source as samples 1/39 and 6/39, and shows no evidence of mineral deposits.

Sample 14/39. Date : 2-7-39.

Source : Showrooms, High Street North, Dunstable.

Result : Same as sample 2/39.

Sample 15/39. Date : 14-7-39.

Source : Isolation Hospital, London Road.

Result : Same as sample 2/39.

Sample 16/39. Date : 14-7-39.

Source : Boiler House tap, Gas Works.

Result : Same as sample 2/39.

Sample 17/39. Date : 25-7-39.

Source : New Well, Waterworks.

Result : " This sample is clear and bright and of satisfactory bacterial purity in view of its collection from a new well. The results indicate a wholesome water, but it is not of first-class bacterial purity and B. Coli was present in very small number, indicative of a minor degree of contamination. Improvement can, however, be reasonably expected when the disturbances of recent construction have subsided and further pumping of the well has taken place."

Samples 19/39 to 29/39, taken between 5th September to 12th December, from sources similar to those enumerated before were all couched in the same terms as sample 2/39.

Results of the Examination of Water Samples, 1940.

Sample 2/40. Date : 17-1-40.

Source : Showrooms, High Street North, Dunstable.

Result : " This sample is below the customary high standard of bacterial purity. It is clear and bright and the bacterial content is not excessive, but it includes B. Coli in small number, in which respect the water is not of the high degree of bacterial purity desirable.

It is, however, considered wholesome in character and suitable for drinking and domestic purposes, but the cause of this slight departure from normal should be investigated. It may possibly be due to an error in sampling."

Note : See result of next sample from same source.

Sample 3/40. Date : 27-1-40.

Source : Showrooms, High Street North, Dunstable.

Result : " This is a first-class sample, clean and bright in appearance, and of a very satisfactory bacterial purity, indicative of a pure and wholesome water, suitable for drinking and domestic purposes."

Sample 4/40. Date : 27/1/40.

Source : Boiler House tap, Gas Works, Dunstable.

Result : Same as sample 2/40.

Sample 5/40. Date : 27-1-40.

Source : Upper Well, Waterworks.

Result : Same as sample 2/40.

Sample 6/40. Date : 27/1/40.

Source : Lower Well, Waterworks.

Result : Same as sample 2/40.

Sample 8/40. Date : 29-2-40.

Source : 18, Stipers Hill, Dunstable.

Sample 9/40. Date : 28/3/40.

Source : 19, Hadrian Avenue, Dunstable.

Sample 12/40. Date : 16/5/40.

Source : Isolation Hospital, Dunstable.

Sample 13/40. Date : 12/5/40.

Source : 2, Englands Lane, Dunstable.

Sample 15/40. Date : 11-7-40.

Source : 19, Hadrian Avenue, Dunstable.

Sample 16/40. Date : 25-7-40.

Source : Showrooms, High Street North, Dunstable.

Sample 18/40. Date : 28-8-40.

Source : Isolation Hospital, Dunstable.

Sample 21/40. Date : 28-10-40.

Source : Stand pipe, Lower Works, Dunstable.

Sample 22/40. Date : 14-11-40.

Source : 19, Hadrian Avenue, Dunstable.

Sample 24/40. Date : 21-12-40.

Source : Isolation Hospital, Dunstable.

Results : The results of all the samples from 8/40 to 24/40 were couched in the same terms as sample 2/40.

Samples 16/40 and 21/40 were also examined chemically, and showed the following result :—

“ This sample is clear and bright in appearance, neutral in reaction and free from Iron and other metals. The water is

hard in character although not to an abnormal degree, contains no excess of saline or mineral matter in solution and is of satisfactory organic quality."

Results of the Examination of Water Samples, 1941.

Sample 1/41. Date : 8-1-41.

Source : Boiler House Tap.

Result : " This is a first-class sample. It is clear and bright in appearance and of highly satisfactory bacterial purity, indicative of a pure and wholesome water, suitable for the purposes of Public Supply."

Sample 3/41. Date : 12-2-41.

Source : No. 3 Well riser.

Sample 6/41. Date : 6-3-41.

Source : No. 1 Well riser.

Sample 8/41. Date : 4-4-41.

Source : Isolation Hospital.

Sample 9/41. Date : 24-4-41.

Source : 90, Great Northern Road, Dunstable.

Sample 10/41. Date : 26-6-41.

Source : 76, Suncote Avenue, Dunstable.

Sample 11/41. Date : 17-7-41.

Source : Boiler House Tap, Gas Works.

Sample 12/41. Date : 27-8-41.

Source : Gas Showrooms, Dunstable.

Sample 13/41. Date : 3-9-41.

Source : Nos. 1 and 2 Wells—Pump Outlet.

Sample 14/41. Date : 18-9-41.

Source : Nos. 1 and 2 Wells—Pump Outlet.

Sample 15/41. Date : 7-10-41.

Source : Isolation Hospital.

The results of the samples commencing No. 3/41 were couched in the same terms as Sample 1/41.

Samples 9/41 and 14/41 were also examined chemically and showed the following result :—

“ This sample is clear and bright in appearance, neutral in reaction and free from Iron and other metals. The water is hard in character although not to an abnormal degree, contains no excess of saline or mineral matter in solution, and is of satisfactory organic quality.”

(ii) Drainage and Sewerage.

Conditions as to the treatment of sewage at the Sewage Farm remain as in previous reports.

During 1939, the Corporation extended the foul sewer in West Street for approximately 300 yards, to enable the “ Rifle Volunteer ” and five houses adjoining, which were drained into cesspools, to be connected. No other works of major importance have been carried out, either at the works or on the Corporation's sewers during 1940 and 1941.

Premises not Connected to the Sewers.

Nine cesspools have been abolished and the properties connected to the sewers since the last Report, leaving less than twenty still served by cesspools and these inaccessible to a sewer.

2. Rivers and Streams.

There are no rivers or streams in the area.

3. (i) Closet Accommodation.

It has been impossible to maintain a regular house to house inspection to discover those premises without proper flushing apparatus, but in cases where the absence of flushing apparatus to the water closet has been reported, the necessary action has been taken to provide same. The number of families sharing a common water closet has increased only as a result of the influx of evacuees, billettees, etc., but immediate attention has always been given where these were, or likely to become, a nuisance.

(ii) Public Cleansing.

(a) *Refuse Collection and Disposal.*

The increase in population resulting from the influx of evacuees, etc., has meant a considerably increased amount of work in this connection, but I feel it should be recorded that, except for a short period prior to the outbreak of the war and during the weeks immediately following, when the vehicles were utilised to assist in the distribution of A.R.P. materials and equipment, etc., a regular collection has been maintained.

An alteration in the collection system to conform with the requirements of the Ministry of Supply with whom the Corporation had to co-operate in the country's need for salvaged materials

was made in June, 1941, when the vehicles commenced a bi-weekly collection of refuse, alternated with the weekly collection of salvage.

Subsequent to requests from the Ministry of Supply, the Corporation commenced, in January, 1940, the organised collection of salvaged materials which householders were requested to keep separate from the refuse, and employed an additional man for the sorting and extracting of those materials. The collection of salvage was then made at the same time as the household refuse and large trailers were attached to the refuse vehicles for this purpose. The volume of salvage to be collected however, increased considerably, and as mentioned in the previous paragraph, it was necessary in 1941 to alternate full time collection of salvage with refuse on alternate weeks.

The following tables show the amount of raw materials, etc., which have been made available to assist in the nation's war effort, since the commencement of an organised collection.

<i>Material.</i>	<i>Year 1940.</i>				<i>Year 1941.</i>			
	<i>Tons</i>	<i>cwts.</i>	<i>qrs.</i>	<i>lbs.</i>	<i>Tons</i>	<i>cwts.</i>	<i>qrs.</i>	<i>lbs.</i>
Paper	78	5	2	8	124	11	—	—
Heavy Iron	26	6	—	—	7	10	—	—
Light Iron	27	15	—	—	43	12	—	—
Rags	5	1	3	21	3	4	3	—
Bones	1	4	—	—	5	15	—	—
Non-ferrous metal	—	12	3	12	3	—	—	—
Bottles and Jars	4	8	—	—	6	14	—	—
Kitchen Waste	66	18	—	—	202	6	—	—
Collected by Borough Surveyor's Dept....	Not complete record.							

(b) *Cleansing of Cesspools.*

A considerable amount of trouble was experienced with cesspools in the West Street area, and frequent emptying was necessary until the drains from these houses were connected to the extended sewer in 1939.

The only other cesspools which have required constant emptying are in the Tring Road area, and these would have normally connected into a proposed new sewer, which would have been constructed to cover the planned development of this area, if war had not intervened.

(iii) **Sanitary Inspection of the Area.**

It will be appreciated that the work in this connection has been curtailed to some degree as a result of the additional duties undertaken by this Department as a result of war-time measures, and that the works carried out have been limited to those of an urgent and necessitous character.

The number of inspections made and the number of notices served is appended herewith, together with a schedule of works carried out during the three years under review.

	1939.	1940.	1941.
Inspections of premises where nuisances were found	106	107	142
Inspections of premises where no nuisances were found	—	—	106
Visits to property under notice or work in progress	173	39	530
Inspections of offensive trade premises	25	23	8
Inspections of Food Premises	449	669	39
Inspections of Schools	2	—	—
Inspections of Cowsheds, Dairies and Milkshops	45	25	77
Inspections of Factories, including Bakehouses	11	42	30
Inspections of Tents, Vans and Sheds	25	20	10
Inspections of Cafes' and Restaurants' Kitchens	3	1	8
Public Air Raid Shelters	—	—	105
Evacuee Billets and Requisitioned Houses	158	43	17
Premises inspected where notifiable diseases occurred	27	39	47
Cases removed to Isolation Hospital	26	26	47

	1939.	1940.	1941.
Number of Statutory Notices served	—	—	—
Number of Informal and Verbal Notices given	55	105	138

SCHEDULE OF WORK DONE.

	1939.	1940.	1941.
(a) STRUCTURAL DEFECTS.			
Roofs repaired and made weatherproof	35	13	14
Eaves gutters repaired or renewed	21	6	12
Chimneys repointed, etc., and Pots renewed	6	2	1
R.W. Pipes refixed, repaired or renewed	10	6	3
Window and frames repaired or renewed	20	13	4
Doors and frames repaired or renewed	5	10	5
Main walls repointed or cement rendered	6	6	5
New damp course provided	1	—	1
Floors repaired or relaid	21	2	6
Ceilings replastered	22	10	13
Walls replastered or matchboarding renewed	17	2	8
Dampness eradicated in walls and ceilings	16	19	10
Sashcords renewed	52	10	3
Staircases repaired and/or handrails provided	1	—	3
Firegrates repaired or renewed	11	5	11
Smoking flues remedied... ..	—	—	4
Rooms and staircases redecorated	38	10	17
Washing copper repaired or renewed	5	2	2
Miscellaneous repairs	22	12	9
(b) FOUL CONDITIONS.			
Obstructed drains cleared	18	40	93
Obstructed sewers referred to Borough Surveyor	—	—	4
Houses cleansed and disinfested	—	1	8
(c) DRAINAGE, PAVING AND WATER SUPPLIES.			
Cesspools abolished and drainage connected to sewer	—	6	3
Drains relaid or repaired	4	10	8
W.C. pans renewed	8	8	9
Flushing cisterns repaired or renewed	13	7	16
Additional W.C.'s provided, W.C. structures repaired or rebuilt	10	4	7
W.C.'s provided with water supply and/or water pipes repaired	3	3	8
Gully drains repaired or dishing renewed	6	2	4
Yard paving relaid or provided	5	3	3
Sink and bath wastepipes repaired or renewed	4	2	3
Manholes and/or covers repaired or renewed	3	16	2
Additional sinks provided or renewed	5	2	1
(d) COLLECTION OF REFUSE AND SALVAGE.			
Offensive accumulations removed	1	2	4
New dustbin provided	30	3	10

	1939.	1940.	1941.
(e) KEEPING OF ANIMALS.			
Accumulations of manure removed	—	—	3
Premises limewashed	1	—	2
(f) OTHER NUISANCES, INCLUDING OFFENSIVE TRADES.			
Fish frying premises cleansed and limewashed	10	1	—
(g) TENTS, VANS AND SHEDS.			
Unlicensed caravans moved on	—	—	3
(h) SCHOOLS.			
Disinfected after Infectious Disease	—	2	1
(i) INFECTIOUS DISEASE.			
Rooms disinfected after notifiable diseases	36	25	51
Rooms disinfected after non-notifiable disease	15	9	19
Bedding disinfected	3	—	9
(j) VERMINOUS CONDITIONS.			
Rooms disinfested	18	10	23
Verminous articles destroyed	—	43	35
Verminous persons cleansed	7	2	6
Premises cleared of rats and/or mice	1	3	3
(k) FACTORIES, INCLUDING BAKEHOUSES.			
Additional sanitary accommodation provided	1	—	9
Existing sanitary accommodation improved	1	—	2
Intervening ventilated space provided between W.C's and workroom	1	—	1
Adequate screening provided for sanitary accommodation... ..	—	—	1
Premises limewashed	4	—	2
(l) COWSHEDS, DAIRIES AND MILKSHOPS.			
Floors relaid	2	—	3
Premises limewashed (or painted)	4	—	5
Cooler removed from cowshed	—	—	1
Filling milk bottles in street—Prosecution	—	—	1
Dairies reconditioned or rebuilt	—	—	1
(m) SLAUGHTERHOUSES.			
Doors refixed	1	—	—
Limewashing	2	—	—
Refuse cleared	1	—	—
Extended and reconditioned	—	1	—
Closed	—	7	—

Offensive Trades.

The only offensive trades registered within the Borough are fish fryers, the number on the register remained at nine as in the last Report until late 1939, when one business was discontinued. The number on the register remains at eight. Routine inspections did not reveal any conditions requiring action to be taken by this Department during 1939, 1940 and 1941.

Factories Act, 1937.

The following schedule shows the number of inspections made, notices served, and work carried out as a result of action taken under the Act. Two basement bakehouses were closed during 1939, under Section 54 of the above Act, as being unsuitable for occupation by reason of unsatisfactory construction, height, light and ventilation within the meaning of the Section.

Factories, including Bakehouses.

(1) INSPECTIONS FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROVISIONS AS TO HEALTH.

<i>Premises.</i>	<i>Number of</i>								
	<i>Inspections.</i>			<i>Informal Notices.</i>			<i>Occupiers prosecuted.</i>		
	1939.	1940.	1941.	1939.	1940.	1941.	1939.	1940.	1941.
Factories—									
(i) With mechanical power	2	—	23	4	—	5	—	—	—
(ii) Without mechanical power	3	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—
Other Premises ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total ...	5	—	23	6	—	5	—	—	—

(2) DEFECTS FOUND.

Particulars.	Number of Defects.									Number of defects in respect of which prosecutions were instituted.		
	Found.			Remedied.			Referred to H.M. Inspector.					
	1939.	1940.	1941.	1939.	1940.	1941.	1939.	1940.	1941.	1939.	1940.	1941.
Insufficient sanitary accommodation ...	—	—	4	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	—
Obstructed drains ...	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Absence of intervening ventilated space	1	—	1	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Insufficient screening of entrance of sanitary accommodation ...	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Limewashing required	3	—	2	3	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
Offensive accumulation of refuse ...	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate means of heating ...	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	6	—	9	6	—	9	—	—	—	—	—	—

(iv) **Shops and Offices.**

The provisions of the Shops Act with regard to hours of employment, etc., are under the control of a separate Shops Inspector and do not, therefore, come within the supervision of the Public Health Department.

The only work required to be carried out under Section 10 of the Shops Act, 1934, during the period under review, was the provision of additional heating apparatus at one shop, to maintain a reasonable temperature, during 1941.

(v) **Camping Sites.**

There was a considerable increase after September, 1939, in the number of caravans occupied as dwellings within the Borough. These were principally occupied by genuine showmen, who would have been temporary campers had it not been for the war. The information appended hereto is therefore resultant upon abnormal wartime conditions.

(1) Number of sites in the area which were used for camping purposes during 1939, two ; 1940, two ; 1941, three.

(2) Number of camping sites in respect of which licences have been issued by the Local Authority under Section 269 of the Public Health Act, 1936, nil. The three sites enumerated above have been under the constant supervision of the Department and Statutory action was taken in 1939, to abate a nuisance occurring at one of them. It was not considered necessary or wise to license these or any sites as permanent camping grounds, as this provision is intended to be of a temporary nature.

(3) The estimated maximum number of caravans in the area would be approximately—1939, 15 ; 1940, 45 ; 1941, 55.

Other indiscriminate camping by hawkers, gypsies, etc., has been discouraged and several caravans have been moved on from unsuitable sites as a result of informal action.

(vi) **Smoke Abatement.**

No action was necessary under this heading during the three years under review.

As mentioned in previous reports, the industries of Dunstable are such that the Town is comparatively free from any nuisance arising from the emission of smoke.

(vii) **Swimming Baths and Pools.**

There are two Swimming Pools within the Area.

(a) The " California Swimming Pool "—privately owned and used by the Public.

(b) The Dunstable Grammar School—used by the school only.

In each case there is the necessary plant to provide the maintenance of a satisfactory standard of purity for the bath water. Both pools are " open-air " and are used during the summer months only. Particulars of samples of water taken during the period under review are appended hereto :—

SWIMMING BATH SAMPLES.

1940.

Sample No. 1. Date : 29th July, 1940.

Taken from : Deep end of Swimming Bath.

Result : " The sample was faintly opalescent but no particulate suspended matter was present.

" The Hydrogen Ion Concentration was p.H.7.5 and the amount of Free Chlorine present on arrival was 0.15 parts per million.

“ The figure for albuminoid nitrogen is high but no excremental organisms are present and the water is therefore safe for bathing purposes.”

Sample No. 3. Date : 29th July, 1940.

Taken from : Well.

Result : “ The chemical results show no evidence of pollution with sewage or organic matter, but the bacterial count is rather high for a deep well water, and there are some bacilli which must be considered objectionable.

“ The result is not indicative of sewage pollution, but is more suggestive of some other form of contamination and probably the supply has not recovered from the disturbance incidental to constructional work in a new well.

“ Although the result is not altogether satisfactory, the water even now is reasonably safe for drinking, and should improve as the supply has further opportunity for self cleansing.”

1941.

Sample No. 1. Dated : 17th December, 1941.

Taken from : Pipe supply from cistern supplied by well.

Result :—“ The chemical results show no evidence of animal or sewage pollution. The bacteriological examination shows a high count figure at room temperature and some Coliform Bacilli, but these are not excremental in type. The water in its present state is reasonably safe for drinking but the examination suggests that an inspection of the cistern is desirable as the possible source of the high count figure and coliform.”

This sample was taken to indicate the suitability of the supply as an alternative public supply in the event of air raid damage to the town mains. Inspection of the cistern in which the supply is stored showed the necessity for a suitable tightly fitting cover to the cistern ; this has since been provided and the cistern cleaned out.

(viii) Eradication of Bed Bugs.

1. Particulars of the action taken for the eradication of Bed Bugs is set out in the manner required by the Ministry of Health Circular 1728.

					1939.	1940.	1941.
(a) Number of Council Houses	(1) Infested	...	...	...	1	2	4
	(2) Disinfested	...	...	...	1	2	4
(b) Number of other houses	(1) Infested	...	...	...	8	4	3
	(2) Disinfested	...	...	...	8	4	3

2. The method of disinfection employed was in each case the use of " Cescone " fumigators and " Climax " Spray.

3. The premises and the effects of prospective tenants of Council Houses are inspected by the Housing Manager, accompanied by the Sanitary Inspector when considered necessary. Disinfection of the effects is then carried out by the Sanitary Inspector if investigation proves it necessary, before removal takes place.

4. It was not found necessary to employ a contractor or use any special method of destruction during the period under review. All work was carried out by the employees of the Corporation after the Owners' workmen had carried out the necessary preparations, *e.g.*, stripping the walls, skirtings, architraves, etc.

5. Advice and instructions are given to the tenants as to the best practical measures to prevent reinfestation, particular emphasis being placed upon the need for scrupulous cleanliness. Premises disinfested are reinspected periodically by the Sanitary Inspector.

4. Schools.

The condition of the Sanitary Arrangements and Water Supply at Schools within the Borough remains satisfactory, and there was no cause for complaint during the years 1939, 1940 and 1941.

One class-room was disinfected after several cases of Infectious Disease had occurred at the same school during 1941, but apart from the exclusion of contacts from school, it was not found necessary to take other special steps to prevent the spread of Infectious Diseases amongst school children.

SECTION D—

HOUSING.

No statutory action was taken during the years 1939/40/41 under the Housing Act, 1936. Informal action has been taken under the overcrowding provisions when any conditions have been found likely to be prejudicial to health.

All action taken under the Public Health Acts has been detailed and listed in other sections of the Report.

SECTION E—

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

1. Milk Supply.

The state of the registers at the end of the years was as follows :—

	1939.	1940.	1941.
Producer retailers with premises	3	2	2
Retailers with premises	13	12	12
Retailers with premises in adjoining areas	21	18	15
<i>Sterilised Milk.</i>			
Wholesalers with premises outside the Borough	1	1	1
Retailers of milk in sealed containers (having no registered premises)	19	17	16
<i>Graded Milk.</i>			
Supplementary Licences	2	2	2

Cowsheds and Dairies.

The number of inspections and visits in connection with the administration of the Milk and Dairies Acts and Orders, and milk supplies generally, was as follows :—

1939 ... 52. 1940 ... 43. 1941 ... 77.

The work carried out as a result of action taken is listed in the general schedule under Section C, Sub-Section III.

The number of cowsheds in use within the Borough is gradually diminishing and are listed herewith :—

1939 ... 4. 1940 ... 3. 1941 ... 2.

The action taken in relation to milk sampling is given elsewhere in this Report.

One Dairyman was prosecuted in 1941 for a contravention of the Milk & Dairies Order, 1926, Section 31 (2), *viz.* : filling of milk bottles in the street. A fine of £2 was imposed.

Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1936–1938.

The following supplementary licences were granted during the period under review :—

	1939.	1940.	1941.
Tuberculin Tested	1	1	1
Pasteurised	1	1	1

The necessary steps to ensure that the principal licence was in order were taken before the supplementary licences were issued.

Milk Sampling.

The results of the bacteriological examination of samples of milk taken during 1939, 1940 and 1941, are set out in the tables attached. It will be noted that certain samples gave results which were considered to be unsatisfactory, *viz.* :—

1939—Samples Numbers 1, 2 and 3.

1940—Samples Numbers 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16.

1941—Samples Numbers 1, 3, 5.

In each case the necessary action was taken to direct the attention of the retailer and producer concerned to the result of the examination with a view to a better standard being attained.

The co-operation of the Sanitary Inspector for the area in which the milk was produced was also solicited. The rather high percentage of unsatisfactory samples is no doubt resultant to some degree upon the difficulties experienced by producers during wartime in obtaining the necessary skilled labour for the production of a clean milk. Every endeavour has been made by advice and instruction to counteract these difficulties.

No. of YEAR OF SAMPLE.	NUMBER OF BACTERIA PER				PRESENCE OF B. COLI.					
	1 c.c.	1/100 c.c.	1/1,000 c.c.	1/10,000 c.c.	After 48 hours—per			After 3 days—per		
					1/100 c.c.	1/1,000 c.c.	1/10,000 c.c.	1/100 c.c.	1/1,000 c.c.	1/10,000 c.c.
1939.										
1	164,330	1,590	164	17	Pos.	Pos.	Neg.	Pos.	Pos.	Neg.
2	115,660	1,050	112	13	Pos.	Neg.	Neg.	Pos.	Neg.	Neg.
3	152,330	1,460	151	16	Pos.	Neg.	Neg.	Pos.	Neg.	Neg.
4	26,330	230	26	3	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.
5	98,660	910	95	11	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.
6	63,660	580	63	7	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.
7	8,360	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1940.										
1	34,330	290	34	4	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.
2	53,330	470	53	6	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.
3	455,000	overcrowded	440	47	Pos.	Pos.	Pos.	Pos.	Pos.	Pos.
4	65,660	620	65	7	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.
5	435,000	overcrowded	420	45	Pos.	Pos.	Pos.	Pos.	Pos.	Pos.
6	163,000	1,580	161	17	Pos.	Neg.	Neg.	Pos.	Neg.	Neg.
7	170,660	1,600	169	18	Pos.	Pos.	Neg.	Pos.	Pos.	Neg.
8	305,000	overcrowded	290	32	Pos.	Pos.	Pos.	Pos.	Pos.	Pos.
9	245,000	overcrowded	230	26	Pos.	Neg.	Neg.	Pos.	Neg.	Neg.
10	53,000	470	52	6	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.
11	225,000	—	210	24	Pos.	Neg.	Neg.	Pos.	Neg.	Neg.
12	490,000	—	470	51	Pos.	Pos.	Pos.	Pos.	Pos.	Pos.
13	240,000	over-	220	26	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.
14	365,000	crowded	350	38	Pos.	Pos.	Pos.	Pos.	Pos.	Pos.
15	295,000	—	280	31	Pos.	Pos.	Neg.	Pos.	Pos.	Neg.
16	350,000	—	330	37	Pos.	Pos.	Neg.	Pos.	Pos.	Neg.
17	103,000	960	103	11	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.
18	17,460	—	—	—	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.
1941										
1	33,660	310	36	4	Pos.	Neg.	Neg.	Pos.	Neg.	Neg.
2	17,000	140	17	2	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.
3	660,000	850	88	9	Pos.	Neg.	Neg.	Pos.	Neg.	Neg.
4	23,000	170	23	3	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.
5	43,000	370	43	5	Pos.	Neg.	Neg.	Pos.	Neg.	Neg.
6	9,930	98	10	1	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.

Pasteurised Milk.

The results of samples taken showed that the required standard was maintained in each case ; the details are appended hereto :—

<i>Number and Date of Sample.</i>	<i>No. of Bacteria per 1 c.c.</i>	<i>Result of Examination.</i>
No. 7-1939	8,360	Satisfied the prescribed test
No. 18-1940	17,460	" " "

2. Meat and Other Foods.*(a) Slaughterhouses.*

As stated in previous Reports the number of private slaughterhouses in the Borough during 1939 was eight. Of these, seven were registered premises of considerable antiquity and altogether unsuitable for the work being carried out in them, and it was not considered reasonably practicable to render the premises suitable. After due consideration, therefore, the Council refused the applications for license, made by the seven owners in October, 1939, under Section 57 of the Food & Drugs Act, 1938.

An appeal against this decision was lodged in the Court of Summary Jurisdiction by three of the owners aggrieved. The appeals came before the Court in January, 1940, only one case being heard, and that adjourned for two months to give the magistrates an opportunity of visiting the premises.

At the adjourned hearing in March, a decision was given in favour of the Corporation and the appeal dismissed. The magistrates then deferred the hearing of the other two appeals to give the applicants the opportunity of reconsidering their appeal, and consulting their solicitors. Subsequently, one of the remaining appeals was withdrawn and no further action has been taken in the case since that date. One of the Slaughterhouses has been partly demolished, and the owner of the other has died.

Extensive structural alterations and repairs were carried out at the one remaining slaughterhouse during the end of 1939 and early 1940. This was licensed in accordance with the requirements of the Food & Drugs Act, 1938, and in March, 1940, was taken over by the Ministry of Food on behalf of the Government as a Controlled Slaughterhouse for the centralised slaughtering of all meat for the whole of Dunstable, the greater part of Luton Rural District and the Ampthill Urban District. It will be noted from the attached figures that this increased the amount of work in this connection beyond all comparison with previous years, and it was often necessary for slaughtering to be continued

well into the night, and during weekends. Despite this, however, all meat has been inspected before leaving the Slaughterhouse. This rule has been rigidly enforced.

<i>Month.</i>	<i>Cattle, excluding Cows.</i>	<i>Cows.</i>	<i>Calves.</i>	<i>Pigs.</i>	<i>Sheep and Lambs.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
YEAR 1939						
January ...	23	10	12	165	66	276
February ...	16	12	26	147	65	266
March ...	14	6	49	132	67	268
April ...	15	7	3	90	36	151
May ...	15	6	9	120	68	218
June ...	11	9	16	63	118	217
July ...	15	10	38	80	133	276
August ...	16	7	24	98	116	261
September ...	22	10	8	131	164	335
October ...	38	8	54	235	200	535
November ...	30	16	41	214	195	496
December ...	28	24	67	313	191	623
	243	125	347	1,788	1,419	3,922
YEAR 1940.						
January ...	60	29	33	22	213	357
February ...	105	57	14	68	236	480
March ...	116	55	45	—	566	782
April ...	92	61	8	16	358	535
May ...	109	68	15	1	406	599
June ...	94	48	6	29	530	707
July ...	79	72	19	2	871	1,043
August ...	116	51	12	10	632	821
September ...	151	55	15	21	813	1,055
October ...	238	75	6	10	1,142	1,471
November ...	82	65	15	7	1,433	1,602
December ...	10	61	9	2	1,096	1,178
	1,252	697	197	188	8,296	10,630
YEAR 1941.						
January ...	116	40	17	1	731	905
February ...	80	101	5	—	625	811
March ...	92	85	19	3	702	901
April ...	123	27	42	—	561	753
May ...	117	34	20	—	443	614
June ...	131	47	23	10	428	639
July ...	148	114	25	41	669	997
August ...	142	78	42	18	577	857
September ...	99	62	35	49	557	802
October ...	165	66	67	28	487	813
November ...	101	51	2	25	1,142	1,321
December ...	8	35	9	23	300	453
	1,400	740	306	198	7,222	9,866

Meat Inspected in Slaughterhouse and found to be Unfit for Human Consumption.

The following lists show the amount of meat found to be diseased or unsound as a result of the routine inspections, and voluntarily surrendered as being unfit for human consumption.

	1939.	1940.	1941.
CATTLE.			
Whole carcasses and all organs ...	6	50	26
Forequarters	—	20	18
Briskets	1	—	11
Hindquarters	—	9	8
Rump and top piece	—	—	3
Flanks	—	—	3
Clods and Sticking	—	—	8
Bruised Beef	—	19 lbs.	471 lbs.
Heads and tongues	10	188	271
Heads (excluding tongues)	—	—	280
Lungs	16	356	495
Livers and parts	14	637	497
Hearts	—	42	31
Skirts	—	—	20
Spleens	—	33	35
Tails	—	—	6
Kidney and Suet	2	16	28
Mesentery	3	42	110
Udders	—	—	27
Tripe	—	—	3
Tripe sets	—	—	87
Ribs	—	—	1 set
Intestines	—	—	18 „
Offal trimmings	—	—	762 lbs.
CALVES.			
Whole carcasses and organs complete...	1	1	1
Livers	3	—	1
Lungs	1	—	2
Heads and plucks	—	—	4
Veal	—	17 lbs.	—
SHEEP AND LAMBS.			
Whole carcasses	2	9	11
Whole sets organs	2	—	2
Forequarters	—	3	—
Hindquarters	—	5	—
Livers and parts	8	256	93
Lungs	—	10	15
Heads and plucks	—	1	9
Flanks	—	—	1
Breasts	1	—	1
Legs	1	1	5
Knuckle	—	—	1
Loins	1	—	—

	1939.	1940.	1941.
PIGS.			
Whole carcasses and organs complete...	6	6	1
Forequarters	—	1	—
Bruised Pork	—	—	8 lbs.
Heads	44	8	11
Liver	15	—	—
Hearts	11	—	1
Lungs	19	—	2
Kidneys	2	—	—
Mesenteries	6	—	3
Plucks	—	—	3
Intestines	—	—	1
Leg pork	1	—	—
Other offal	—	9	—

From the commencement of centralised slaughtering it has been possible to keep a more careful and comparative record of the amount of meat found to be unfit for human consumption. A Summary of the records is appended herewith.

1939.

No record of weight kept but approximate figures are given :—

Cattle	4,250 lbs.
Calves	50 lbs.
Sheep	100 lbs.
Pigs	1,200 lbs.

A total weight of approx. ... 5,600 lbs.

1940.

Cattle	49,823 lbs.
Calves	189 lbs.
Sheep	1,121½ lbs.
Pigs	1,011 lbs.

A total weight of ... 50,144½ lbs.

1941.

Cattle	39,652 lbs.
Calves	55 lbs.
Sheep	1,093 lbs.
Pigs	256 lbs.

A total weight of ... 41,066 lbs.

Meat and Food other than in Slaughterhouse.

Constant supervision was maintained on all premises from which food is sold or is prepared for sale, and certain improvements have been effected as a result of the regular inspection. Three informal notices were served during 1940, and three during 1941, requiring the eradication of dirty conditions and a general improvement in the standard of cleanliness to be observed.

The undermentioned foodstuffs were voluntarily surrendered by the owners and destroyed, or utilised as animal feeding stuffs, as being unfit for human consumption :—

1939.

24 lbs. Tinned Beef.	10 lbs. frozen Sheep Liver.
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1940.

2 4lb. tins Beef.	1 tin Tongue.
1 Canterbury Lamb.	158 lbs. Ox Tails.
24 lbs. Pork Sausage.	6 lbs. Black Pudding.
6 lbs. Luncheon Sausage.	16 lbs. Bacon.

1941.

$\frac{1}{2}$ lb. Cooking Fat.	$7\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. Sugar.
$\frac{1}{2}$ lb. Tea.	$13\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. Bacon.
2 lbs. Margarine.	$16\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. Butter.
$\frac{1}{2}$ lb. Lard.	30 lbs. Corned Beef.
2 81lb. Canterbury Lambs.	3 cwt. Dried Peas.
8 cwt. Potatoes.	18 tins Evaporated Milk.
21 lbs. Smoked Fillet.	23 tins Condensed Milk.
56 lbs. Cod.	40 lbs. Brawn.
56 lbs. Coly (Coal Fish)	$2\frac{1}{2}$ pints Milk.
26 lbs. Dog Fish	3 lbs. Imported Beef.
1 tin Lobster.	1 tin Shepherds Pie.
1 tin Sardines.	1 Chicken.

On two occasions, once in 1940 and once in 1941, it was found necessary to seize meat which was unfit for human consumption, and which was exposed for sale in shops. In both instances the meat was conveyed to a magistrate who confirmed the action taken and issued the necessary order for destruction. In the first case the Corporation sent a letter warning the person concerned that Police Court Proceedings would be taken, without further warning, if any further infringement were found.

Legal proceedings were instituted in the other instance but were allowed to lapse as a result of extenuating circumstances.

Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924.

There is no Meat Marking Scheme in operation in accordance with Part III of the above regulations. No offence against the regulations was discovered during the three years under review.

Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933.

Two new licences to act as a Slaughterman were issued during the three years. The total number of licences in operation at the end of 1941 was twenty. All these licences expired on 31st December, 1941, and were renewed upon application in sixteen cases.

With the inception of Government Control of Slaughtering in March, 1940, all slaughtering for Dunstable and District was undertaken by one contractor authorised by the Ministry of Food.

(c) Adulteration of Food, etc.

The Town Council are not the Food and Drugs Authority under the Food and Drugs Act, 1938. No action was taken by this Department during the period under review, other than that detailed in previous sections of the Report.

(d) Chemical and Bacteriological Examination of Food.

It was not found necessary to submit samples of food for bacteriological examination during 1939, 1940 and 1941.



